

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-04

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

66646

DRAFTED BY: EA/ANP: C. C. FINCH

APPROVED BY: EA/ANP: L. J. MOSER

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P 192143Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 142113

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

THE FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CANBERRA, PARIS
FROM WELLINGTON REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1874

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR,NZ, FR

SUBJ: FRI

REF: WELLINGTON 1861

1. ON JULY 18 I WAS TOLD BY FREE LANCER JOHN FORBIS
THAT FRI HAD BEEN TAKEN IN TOW BY FRENCH NAVY ABOUT
11:00 A.M. NZ TIME AND NZ MINISTER OF DEFENSE
FAULKNER (WHOM I SAW A FEW HOURS AGO AND WHO SAID
NOTHING ABOUT FRI) WAS ABOUT TO ISSUE STATEMENT "MAKING
INQUIRIES OF AMERICAN PEOPLE" AS TO WHAT SHOULD BE
DONE ABOUT FRI.

2. I HAVE CALLED PM'S OFFICE AND ASKED THAT STATE-
MENT BE KILLED AND ANY INQUIRES DIRECTED THROUGH
EMBASSY.

3. A FEW MINUTES LATER DEFENSE MINISTER ARTHUR
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FAULKNER CALLED ME. HE SAID THAT DURING EARLIER PRESS CON-

REFERENCE HE BELIEVED HE HAD USED PHRASE "WOULD INQUIRE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE" BUT THAT HE HAD MEANT "THE AMERICAN PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE, THAT IS, THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES." I COMMENTED THAT THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE PLAYED UP IN PRESS, NOTING THAT INCIDENT OF TAKING FRI IN TOW RECEIVED FULL EXAGGERATED COVERAGE IN WELLINGTON EVENING PAPER, THE POST. FAULKNER SAID HE REGRETTED THE MINUNDERSTANDING WHICH MIGHT BE CAUSED BY THE USE OF THIS WORD. HE SAID THE NZBC WOULD BE CALLING HIM AGAIN FOR CLARIFICATION AND THAT HE WOULD THEN MAKE IT CLEAR THAT INQUIRIES WOULD BE DIRECTED OFFICIALLY THROUGH USG CHANNELS. HE REITERATED THAT GNZ IS UNMOVED BY THE INCIDENT. HE IS QUOTED IN THE EVENING PAPER AS HAVING SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S ADVICE TO THE FRI WAS "GO HOME AND LET US GET ON WITH THE JOB".

4. SINCE DICTATING ABOVE PM'S OFFICE HAS PHONED TO SAY OFFICIAL INQUIRY WILL BE MADE TO STATE DEPT. WOOD
UQUOTE RUSH

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NNN

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